

Scholarships & Academic Awards Committee Meeting

30 March 2021, 5-6:15pm ET

Meeting minutes

Members present:

Lexey Bartlett, Leigh Dillard (chair), Kaine Ezell, Elfi Gabriel, Tim Helwig, Felicia Steele, Corbett Upton, Kassia Waggoner, Sidney Watson

Spring 2021 award cycle:

- Survey not distributed for new evaluators; Leigh will contact those who responded last year to ask about evaluating for the current cycle.
- Committee approves adjusting the William C. Johnson Scholarship evaluation, shifting to a two-phase process. The first phase will only evaluate GPA and service to the society; the second phase will evaluate the full application of top entries. Leigh will work with Elfi to finalize this process in WriteAway, which will be implemented for the SP21 cycle.
- Regents Scholarships will be awarded in tiered amounts -- as we do on other awards -- to distribute funds more widely.
- We will discontinue the practice of listing award amounts for the Regents Scholarships on english.org but will instead label winners and runners-up as we do on other awards.

Future cycles:

- Given the unprecedented academic conditions of the past year, Elfi will add an item in the scholarship FAQ (english.org), encouraging applicants to explain covid-based irregularities in GPA, enrollment status, et al. in the essay prompts.
- The committee favors adding a short-term study abroad scholarship and will continue to discuss the details.
- The summer Classroom Library Grants will be shifted to July-August.

**Items highlighted in yellow indicate action by the Central Office